College Library

HAMILTON LIFE

The Weekly Student Publication of Hamilton College

VOL. XI CLINTON, N. Y., SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909 No. 13

WESTERN ALUMNI

At the Grand Pacific Hotel in Chicago there was held, on December 29th, the Twenty-third Annual Reunion and Dinner of the Western Alumni Association. Hamilton Oratory was divided into the following morsels. Samuel Duncan Miller, '90, spoke on the extent and effectiveness of the "Western Alumni Association." "College Days" was the title of a delightful narration of reminiscences of the old days by Hon. M. H. Beach, '53. Its bleak contrast was given in a toast by H. K. Webster, '97, "Out, Now, in the Cold, Cold World," being the subject. "Twenty Years After" was the title of the toast by M. J. Huthchens, '88, editor of the Chicago Evening Journal. "Hill Notes," in their proper form and content, were given with a sauce of dry humor by Prof. A. P. Saunders. "The Prodigal Father" was the excuse for a clever speech of humor and wit by Mr. Francis T. Simmons, father of Simmons, '08. "As Others See Us," was described by W. P. Williams, Union '81. The program of speeches was enjoyed from beginning to end, being interspersed with renditions in rag-time by the "College Choir, a quartet composed of Purdy, '06, Simmons, '08, and the Messrs. Henry, of the University of Chicago. S. D. Miller, '90, is the President of the Association; Schuyler Brandt, '89' is Secretary. The menus were a feature of the banquet. They were of heavy leather-like paper run with blue. As a frontispiece there was a half-tone of Hon. J. S. Sherman, '78, with these words as title: "Hamilton's Latest Contribution to the Nation's High Honor Roll." On the second page was "Carissima," with music, and on the cover was a clear view of New South College.

WESTERN N. Y. ALUMNI

The Western New York Alumni Association held their first Banquet in several years at the Hotel Seneca in Rochester during Christmas week. About fifty men—all Hamiltonians—sat down to the feast of food and speech. College songs in plenty were sung by the younger alumni present. The class of '99 had the largest representation. Benjamin B. Snow, '50, was the oldest graduate in attendance. The student body was represented by Lewis and H. P. Osborn, '09.

Letters of regret were read from Vice-President-Elect Sherman, '78, and Hon. Elihu Root, '64. C. R. Millham, '99, was in charge of the arrangements of the dinner. The tables were decorated with chrysanthemums and carnations, and buff-and-blue was in prominence.

The Toastmaster was Judge Signor, '70, of Abion. Dr. Squires was the principal speaker. In his toast, "Old Hamilton," he spoke stirringly of the steady maintenance of Hamilton's standards and her place as a college of classical traditions in an age of diversified institutions. Luther W. Steele, '93, Superintendent of Schools at Canandaigua, responded to "New Hamilton." "Running a College as a Business Proposition" was the subject of the toast of Charles L. Hastings, '79, of Rochester, N. Y. Drummond, '02, spoke on "Athletics," and J. B. Millham, '01, discussed the plan, in which Hamilton men are leaders, of forming a Universiy Club for the 2,500 college men in the Rochester vicinity. The project will probably be realized soon. H. P. Osborn, '09, gave a student's plea for a larger Hamilton in a pointed, enthusiastic speech. His toast was "College Spirit."

MUSICAL CLUBS

The Musical Clubs have started in to work, in preparation for the mid-winter trip. The schedule for this has not been fully completed and will probably include Little Falls, Gloversville, Schenectady and other towns in the eastern section of the State. The usual Prom. concert will be given. There is also the probability of a concert in Rome in the near future. It is not known what date the concert in Utica will be held, but one is assured there this term.

The Easter trip this year will cover the western part of the State, contrary to the usual custom. It will probably include Syracuse, Auburn, Geneva, Canandaigua, Rochester, Batavia, Geneseo, Buffalo, Binghamton and Scranton.

The management has been attempting to arrange a joint concert with Amherst for the latter part of the season. This is but a possibility, however.

Both clubs are in very good condition and show promising results from last term's work. Practice will continue on the same plan as carried out previously. The Glee Club will practice four times a week, and the Instrumental Club will continue its practice as usual.

The Glee Club had its first rehearsal this term last evening at 7:30. A few changes have been made in the personnel, which now is as follows:

First Tenor, Figgles, A. Osborn, '09; Hastings, '10; Sidle, Johnson, '11. Second Tenor, Smyth, (Leader) Rudd, '09; Titus, Cross, '10; Gouge, '11. First Bass, Rifenbark, Judson, Sarles, McNair, Peters, '11; Second Bass, Leavenworth, Spencer, '09; Sherwin, Dounce, I. A. Hall, '10; Allen, '11.

Regular practice will be held almost daily. The schedule of practices follows:Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, at 7:15 p. m.; Tuesday at 5 and Friday at 7:30.

The personnel of the Mandolin Club beginning this term is as follows:

First Mandolin, Leavenworth (Leader, '09;Hemenway, Barber, '10; Westcott, '11; Stewart, '12. Second Mandolin, McNair, Fiske, '10; Thomas, Eells, Adams, '12. First Violin, DuBois, '12. Guitar, Spencer, '09; I. A. Hall, L. E. Leavenworth, '10.

As soon as can be arranged, Mandolin practice will be held three times a week, on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, at 4:45.

JUNIOR PROM.

It is not amiss at this time to remind the College that Junior Week is the red letter of the College year. On the 11th of February the Junior Class proposes to give what they promise will be the greatest, best and most enjoyable Prom. ever seen in this corner of the world. The Gym. will be lighted by electricity, and one of Albany's best orchestras will render metropolitan strains.

The programs will be novel to uniqueness. They are the first of the kind to appear in the United States. As they are copyrighted, a more definite advance description is prohibited.

These are just a few suggestions of the scale preparations are on. No expense will be spared, and the committee expects to surpass all former efforts and hopes to set a mark which will not be equalled until Hamilton has at least three hundred men.

In connection with the Prom. there will be the usual fraternity formals and probably an underclassman dance. The Colgate basketball game and the Glee Club Concert will also be attractions. Several schemes for further festivities are in the air, but are not definite enough to justify publicity.

All this leads up to the fact that the committee must have the support of the College. Of what avail to give "the best dance on record" if there is not a record crowd? Why not make a big thing of it by your attending?

DEBATE

The "return-match" with Union in Debate will take place here toward the end of the present term. The Interclass Debate is scheduled for Thursday evening, February 4th; the subject reads thus: "A system of direct nominations to elective offices within the State of New York should be established." The Junior debaters have chosen the affirmative position. The Junior team is in the hands of Prof. Lewis. Dr. Squires aided in the selection of the Senior team, but President Stryker has the men in charge. A submitted scheme for the selection of intercollegiate debaters after a "stab" contest by a proper committee of non-student judges was laid before the two upper classes by Dr. Stryker on Thursday last, and seems to have met with general approval. It has been suggested that the Interclass contests serve as the "stabs" in question.

PROF. HAWKINS

Prof. Hawkins, successor to Dr. Davenport, who is now in the State Senate, has taken up all the College work of the latter, including Economics and Law, but excepting the Senior Seminar in Political Science, which Dr. Davenport will conduct in person on Saturday afternoons. Prof. Hawkins comes to us eminently qualified, both in personality and experience. His record shows a versatility that proves our good fortune in his engagement. Graduating from Syracuse University in 1894 with the degree of A. B., he became instructor in his Alma Mater, receiving therefrom the further degree of Master of Arts. After this teaching in Economics, he entered the Syracuse Law School, from which he secured an LL. B. in 1898 and was admitted to the Bar Association of New York State. Subsequently he pursued post-graduate work at Columbia University in Political Economy, Sociology, Political Science and International Law. In 1900 he was made associate professor at Syracuse, being promoted to full professor in 1901 and a year later headed the department of Political Economy at that university. In June, 1906, he resigned to take up business of public and private nature in Syracuse. He was instrumental in a fight against the gas and electric monopolies in that city. The question soon became of intense public interest, resulting in the appointment by the Mayor of a commission composed of the men prominent municipally and whose function it was to investigate conditions and report on the advisability of city ownership of lighting companies. Prof. Hawkins was named secretary of this commission. After seven months of scientific work he edited a report, which was published in New York and Chicago for educative purposes and with a large circulation. The report is coming to be regarded as a classic in the world of public ownership thought. He is a member of Psi Upsilon, Phi Delta Phi (Law) and Phi Beta Kappa.

Y. M. C. A.

On Sunday afternoon at 5:00 o'clock there will be a student meeting in Silliman Hall. Subject, "Christian Citizenship,"—I Peter 2:13-17. At 3:00 o'clock the Freshmen will meet to continue their Bible course. Clark will lead the class. At this same hour the three upper classes will meet for the study of China, which study will be continued thruout this term. The Cabinet will meet at 7:30 this evening. This is important.

—On Saturday night, December 5th, Delta Kappa Epsilon held an Informal. The folowing were present: Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Watrous, patronesses; Misses Peck and Coupe, of Utica; Misses Jarvis and Hutchins, of Ilion; Misses Marks, Searles, Perry, of Herkimer; the Misses Millard, of Frankfort; Miss Knox, of Knoxboro; Miss Payne, of Clinton; the Misses Osborn, of New Hartford; Prof. and Mrs. Lewis, and Mr. and Mrs. Stevens, of Utica.

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FOR THE STUDENT BODY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1909.

Subscription, $1.75 a year. Single copies 5c. Advertising rates on application to Business Manager.

Address all business communications to the Business Manager.

Contributions and expressions of opinion are solicited from the student body and from interested alumni.

LIFE is entered at the Clinton post-office as second-class matter.

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Reportorial

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THIS IS THE TERM of debating. The Interclass debate will be followed by the Union contest, which will conclude such activities for the year. What are we to do next year? Tho revolutionary in its prematurity, the question may still be in order. The College has no "Debate Council," nor has it the authority to plan either policy or schedule. Yet we venture the question and offer a suggestion.

An agreement has been made by which we are to debate Colgate University in 1910 and 1911. These will be the only intercollegiate debates during those two years—one a year seeming an advisable limitation, for fear of dissipation in this line of activity. The last theory, whether more or less valid, we will accept. The proposed plan is this: Have the debates for 1910 and 1911 triangular—Colgate, Union and Hamilton. Each college would have two teams—one on the affirmative and one on the negative of the common question, thus making six teams in all. Dividing these, there would be three debates—one at each of the colleges between a home team and a visiting team. A system of points could be established by which the winner of the entire contest could be determined.

As the three debates would occur simultaneously the objection of dissipation would be obviated. Aside from the obvious advantage of increased interest, this scheme would effect an even greater advantage; for by having both a negative and affirmative team in the same college real practice of actual value would be made possible by pitting the two local teams, one against the other, preparatory to the official debate. Thus not only would the character of the arguments be improved, but also increased interest would accrue, both thru the fact that opportunity would be offered to a greater number and because the event, as a whole, would be of keener rivalry and greater importance. If we have any desire for progress in debating here lies a chance. Let the College body say that it wants a Colgate-Union-Hamilton triangular debate, and, with Colgate's consent, we shall have it.

THE PRESS CLUB HAS BEEN organized. Tho little in actual effectiveness can as yet be credited, the plans have been laid and that is a big step toward execution. Another branch of work has been suggested and, tho important, it is quite impossible without financial aid. Thru student sources, the Press Club can fulfill its functions in the other lines, but here it is blocked. The plan is to procure and frame photographs of the College, say four on a map, (the plan being uniform) and present these collections to the High Schools.

This form of advertising would be permanent. It would demand no effort or sacrifice on the part of those to whom we advertise, but rather would enlist them thru the gift. Its effectiveness, no man who has seen this College could dare gainsay. The argument that "other colleges do it," is often no argument. But in this case, when you consider that the sub-collegians have continually before them real pictures of other colleges and only a vague notion, if any, of ours, Hamilton's handicap thereby is indisputable. To accomplish this, money is needed. It is a plan that might justify financial co-operation on the part of the College authorities. If any alumni are interested in the project they may write for further particulars to "The Press Club."

IT IS AN OLD THEORY that the ingrates are those who receive much. We receive much, and at least in one respect we seem to prove the theory. In the Y. M. C. A. there is a chess table. Its excellency of plan and thoro finish indicate the purpose of the donor, Mr. Rice. Tho ornate, it was primarily intended to be used. The blank silver plates surrounding the playing board were planned with care, that interest might be aroused in that intellectual pastime, and that emulation might be developed by the provision for having engraved on one of these plates the name of the college champion each year. There is the material in College to create a keen competition. It would be good for us, and we owe it to the donor.

To the Editor of LIFE:

I should like to submit an opinion in favor of the plan for choosing Intercollegiate debate-teams which has been suggested to Dr. Stryker, and was presented by him on Thursday morning.

It seems to me that any mode of choice involving election from the student ranks, even under ideal conditions, may defeat the purpose in hand, which is the selection of the strongest possible team to represent the College, for the student has neither the perspective nor the experience necessary for such a choice. If we were selecting an athletic team, we should not dream of electing its members ourselves; their choice would lie with a competent critic, the coach. Actually, we all know only too well the apathy with which debating has come to be regarded in our midst, and the host of irrelevant influences which may operate to prevent an election. I need not say

that I am speaking purely from general motives, and without regard to any particular choice which, so far as I know, has ever taken place. I simply feel that, under the present system, some men of ability may be deprived of a chance to "make good," which would be neither for their own well-being nor for that of the College.

I have heard it suggested that the Interclass Debate might serve as the "stab" in question, with a valuable economy of time, which seems to me an excellent idea, but I submit that unless the personnel of each *class team* is *also* chosen in a previous "sub-stab," the objections it is desired to reform would be merely altered in their time of occurrence. Such "sub-stabs" should be easily managed, as a matter of debating-class routine.

—*H. E. Dounce, '10.*

BASKETBALL

With the opening of Winter term, the interest of the College turns to Basketball—the schedule, the probable make-up of the Varsity, and the prospects for the season. After the close of the Football season, practice was held rather spasmodically during the remainder of the term. The time was devoted to weeding out the poorer men and selecting, temporarily at least, a varsity and a scrub. Now practice has begun in earnest. Capt. Roenke is rounding the men into shape and developing that essential of good basketball—team work. With good, consistent work on the part of the squad, a fine team should be built out of last year's Varsity. The most promising men at present seem to be Captain Roenke, '09, Conklin, '09, Sherwin, '10, Allen and Getman, '11, and Regin, '12.

The absence of Welch and Wilson will prove a great loss to the team. On account of football injuries Welch is unable to play, and Faculty restriction keeps Wilson out of the game. Their places will certainly be hard to fill. Wilson has played a strong game both at guard and center. The only way that these difficulties can be overcome is by the united efforts of the student body. Every man who has ever played Basketball, and those who think they can, should come out and do their best to give Hamilton a winning team.

The schedule has been reduced this year to ten games, five of which will be played in the Gym. The others will make up two trips. The third week in February, Union, Williams, Trinity and Tufts will be played on one trip. These are hard games, and the long jumps will tire the team. The advisability of so many games on one trip, and especially of the Williams, Trinity and Tufts Varsity, is a question. We hope for the best. The season ends with a game with Colgate at Hamilton. The schedule, in full, follows:

Jan. 15—Union at Clinton.
Jan. 22—Hobart at Clinton.
Jan. 29—St. Lawrence at Clinton.
Feb. 4—Tufts at Clinton.
Feb. 10—Colgate at Clinton.
Feb. 17—Union at Schenectady.
Feb. 18—Williams at Williamstown.
Feb. 19—Trinity at Hartford.
Feb. 20—Tufts at Boston.
March 2—Colgate at Hamilton.

Class games will be during the week, February 22-27.

To make prospects for any season is a rather precarious task. Material certainly is at hand, and a good team should be developed. The loss of Welch and Wilson will be keenly felt. The schedule of games away from the Hill is not very propitious for victories. This, however, necessitates all the more strongly the co-operation of the student body with the management and the team. On this, more than any one thing, the success or failure of the season depends.

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NOTES

—Wilson, '09, has returned to College.

—Mason, '12, has recovered from his coasting accident.

—Stewart, '12, sprained his ankle in the Gym. just before vacation.

—Harper, '10, is convalescent after a dangerous attack of pneumonia.

—Kneeland, '09, underwent a successful operation, and has returned.

—Smyth, '09, returned to College this week after a severe attack of tonsilitis.

—A. S. Evans, '09, has left College to be Senator Davenport's private secretary.

—The Freshman class now numbers sixty-one, as Bernard, Brome and Young failed to report back this term.

—Basketball practice started last Wednesday. Kelly, ex-'08, assisted in coaching. The manager has stated that a coach wil be procured for the season.

—At a meeting last term the Freshman class voted to use red and black for class colors. An effort was made to secure the colors of 1812, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

—Announcements have been sent out of the wedding of Fred H. Haggerson, ex-'08, of Menominee, Mich., to Miss Ethel Stevenson, of the same town.

—Loyal E. Leavenworth, '10, has been seriously ill at his home in Cleveland with etheral pneumonia. Altho he is out of danger he will not be able to return to College until late in the term.

—At a meeting of the Senior class held on Thursday morning, it was voted to hold a compulsory Chapel at which the five speakers who were not permitted to speak at the last Saturday Chapel should receive full credit for their work.

—The Governor in recent appointments named Fred J. Meagher, '99, of Binghamton, as district attorney. The office which he vacated, assistant corporation counsel, was immediately filled by another Hamilton man, Chas. W. Yeomans, '92.

—Capt. Judson called for men for Baseball practice last Wednesday. Allen and Manion, '11, Bagg, Drummond, Donaldson and Hallock, '12, came out for the position of pitcher.

—"Uncle John" has begun drilling men for the "Gym. Show." This will occur in March, and the proceeds will defray the expenses of installing electric lights in the Gym. The lights will be placed immediately and the Advisory Board will stand back of the project to the extent of $150.

—On Wednesday evening, December 30th, Mrs. Baldwin and Mrs. Bristol, of Brooklyn, entertained a party of college people at the "Rusurban" in that city. A number of Hamilton men attended. Among this number were: Mr. William M. Bristol, '82, Brokaw, '06, Sicard, '06, A. Osborn, '09, Truax, '09, Welch, '09, Smyth, '09, Rudd, '09, Stone, '10, C. Stone, ex-'09, Baldwin, '10, Engs, '10, Knox, '10, Bagg, '12.

—There were 78 delinquency notices sent out last term.

—Hereafter Prof. Lewis will post the individual criticisms of Chapel appearances in the Chapel.

—On December 29th, Leon E. Jenks, '05, was married to Miss Anna Zimmerman, at Sauquoit, the bride's home.

—The Freshman class of Colgate has challenged the Freshman class of Hamilton for a debate. Nothing has as yet been done toward accepting the challenge, but the matter will be considered immediately.

1910 HAMILTONIAN

The building of the 1910 Hamiltonian is well under way, and unless something unforeseen delays its appearance, the volume should be on sale by the middle of May, at the latest. A dedicatee has been chosen, and has consented to serve in that capacity; his identity is by custom a secret until the publication of the book. Proofs of the first assignment of cuts have been revised by the editors, who are confident that their production will score a success from the artistic standpoint. altho the drawings are entirely the work of "local talent." Those who have consented to contribute written matter should have it in the hands of the Board by February 20th at the latest, and similar contribution is solicited from the pens of all classes. The maintenance of the year-book in Hamilton has always been a debatable enterprise for reasons of financial stringency, but the present Board hopes to give its publication a new lease of *Life* by an energetic advertising canvas, and by the readability of a book which, if it "pans out" as well as is expected, should be worthy of the preceding books, of 1910, and of the College. It is thus incumbent upon the Junior Class, and in the larger sense, upon the entire student-body, to give this enterprise a trial on its merits by seconding the efforts of the editors in every possible way.

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